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ARKANSAS DERBY RUNNER-UP KING GUILLERMO BLITZES FIVE FURLONGS IN :59.40

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Aug. 15, 2020) – The action beneath the Twin Spires for the Grade I, \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve ramped up Saturday morning as **Victoria's Ranch's King Guillermo** posted a bullet five-furlong move in :59.40 – the fastest of 46 horses at the distance.

King Guillermo, trained by **Juan Avila** and owned by former Major League Baseball five-time all-star **Victor Martinez**, worked at 7:30 a.m. (all times Eastern) with jockey **Miguel Mena** aboard through splits of :24.40, :36.80, and :48 prior to galloping out six furlongs in 1:12.

The workout did not necessarily go as scripted with several horses completing their works in front of the \$500,000 Arkansas Derby (GI) runner-up. As he neared the wire, Mena had to navigate King Guillermo through a trio of slowing horses and directed the colt from the rail to the far outside and continued galloping out around the clubhouse turn.

"He was working really fast at the wire and he wanted to continue going around the turn," Mena said. "He went super easy over the ground and it was fun breezing him. He's a naturally fast horse."

Avila's Churchill Downs-based team watched from the backstretch and couldn't be more pleased following the move.

"He really likes it in Kentucky," Avila's exercise rider **Edgar Medina** said. "Since we got here, he keeps doing better and better. Who knows what the future can hold for him."

Avila is scheduled to arrive at Churchill Downs next week and Florida-based jockey **Samy Camacho** is slated to ride King Guillermo in the Kentucky Derby.

King Guillermo wasn't the only horse preparing on Saturday morning for Kentucky Derby Week. Trainer **Brad Cox** breezed his Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) hope **Shedaresthedevil** five furlongs in 1:00.20. Cox had a new workmate at Churchill Downs for the \$200,000 Indiana Oaks (GIII) winner in 2020 champion filly and Kentucky Oaks winner **Monomoy Girl**.

The duo, with Shedaresthedevil on the inside, worked through fractions of :23.80 and :47.40 and continued to gallop out together to the backstretch. Monomoy Girl is a likely entrant to the \$500,000 La Troienne (GI) on the undercard of the Kentucky Oaks.

"Both of these horses worked really well this morning," Cox said. "I thought it was a great workout pairing and Shedaresthedevil did well against Monomoy."

The Cox barn flooded the Saturday work tab with graded stakes winners, including **Arklow** and **Mr. Misunderstood** (four furlongs, :48); **Break Even** (four furlongs, :49.20); **Factor This** (four furlongs :49.20); **Juliet Foxtrot** (four furlongs, :48.80) and **Warrior's Charge** (five furlongs, 1:00.40).

Also on Saturday morning, **George Hall** and **SportBLX Thoroughbred's** \$1 million Travers Stakes (GI) third-place finisher **Max Player** made his second appearance at Churchill Downs for a routine gallop under the care of new trainer **Steve Asmussen**. The colt, who previously ran for the barn of New York-based trainer **Linda Rice**, was transferred following the Travers and shipped to Asmussen's Churchill string soon thereafter. Asmussen's local assistant **Ronnie Werner** is helping to oversee the colt.

KENTUCKY DERBY FIELD RUNDOWN – There is one race remaining on the Road to the Kentucky Derby: Saturday's \$150,000 Pegasus at Monmouth Park. The race will award the Top 4 finishers points on a 20-8-4-2 scale.

The following is the current preference list for the maximum 20-horse Kentucky Derby (with jockey): **Tiz the Law** (Manny Franco); **Art Collector** (Brian Hernandez Jr.); **Honor A.P.** (Mike Smith); **Ny Traffic** (TBD); King Guillermo (Samy Camacho); **Thousand Words** (Florent Geroux); **Dr Post** (TBD); Max Player (TBD); **Caracaro** (TBD); **Enforceable** (TBD); **Swiss Skydiver** (TBD); **Rushie** (TBD); **Major Fed** (James Graham); **Storm the Court** (TBD); **Attachment Rate** (Joe Talamo); **Sole Volante** (Luca Panici); **Finnick the Fierce** (TBD); **Pneumatic** (TBD); and **Winning Impression** (Joe Rocco Jr.).

Currently outside the Top 20: **Necker Island** (Mitchell Murrill); **As Seen On TV** (TBD); **Jesus' Team** (TBD); **Kiss Today Goodbye** (TBD); **Big City Bob** (TBD); **Shirl's Speight** (Rafael Hernandez); **Super John** (TBD); **Happy Saver** (TBD); **Money Moves** (TBD); **Skyscanner** (TBD); **Arkaan** (TBD); and **Wartime Hero** (TBD).

DERBY WEEK STAKES NOMS DUE TODAY – Nominations for all Kentucky Derby Week stakes races and the late closing to the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (Grade I) and \$1 million Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic (GI) are due Saturday.

This years' Kentucky Derby Week, which will span Sept. 1-5, will include 18 stakes events worth \$9.85 million. The spectacular week of racing will include 14 graded stakes events, including five Grade I races that will be headlined by the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve on Saturday, Sept. 5 and Kentucky Oaks on Friday, Sept. 4.

Late nominations to the Longines Kentucky Oaks and Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic cost \$500. The Longines Kentucky Oaks had 120 nominations as of the first closing on Feb. 15 while the Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic had 57 nominations.

Nominations can be made by calling the Churchill Downs racing office at 502-638-3825 or online: <https://www.churchilldowns.com/horsemen/stakes/nomination-forms/>.

DOWN THE STRETCH – John Oxley's Blue Grass Stakes (GII) fourth-place finisher **Enforceable** is scheduled to work from the starting gate Monday at 7:30 a.m., according to trainer Mark Casse's assistant David Carroll. ... Other Kentucky Derby horses based at Churchill Downs include \$200,000 Ellis Park Derby runner-up **Attachment Rate**, \$300,000 Indiana Derby runner-up **Major Fed**, Arkansas Derby third-place finisher **Winning Impression** and former \$100,000-claim **Necker Island**. All four horses are expected to have two works prior to the first Saturday in September. ... Kentucky Derby favorite **Tiz the Law** is currently scheduled to arrive in Louisville from New York on Aug. 31. ... California-based Kentucky Derby contenders are expected to arrive on Aug. 25 or Sept. 1. Among those contenders would be Santa Anita Derby (GI) winner **Honor A. P.**, and trainer Bob Baffert's duo of \$1 million Haskell (GI) winner **Authentic** and \$100,000 Shared Belief Stakes hero **Thousand Words**. ... The first day of the exclusive training period for Kentucky Derby and Oaks horses at Churchill Downs will be Saturday, Aug. 22 from 7:30-7:45 a.m.

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